


# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):  <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company</b> <b>1120 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b> <b>Bloomer, WI 54724</b>	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b>	
	Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>	
	Date: December 1, 2021	
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p> <p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Klima;</li> <li>Travis McFarlane</li> </ul>	Title  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VP and General Manager</li> <li>Operations Manager</li> </ul>	Phone <b>(715) 568 - 4830</b>
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date <b>03/17/2022</b>	

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$502,505</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39-1904044</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$279,089</b>
Contact Name and Title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kent Klima, VP and General Manager</b></li> <li><b>Travis McFarlane, Operations Manager</b></li> </ul>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$781,594</b>
Telephone Number <b>(715) 568-4830</b>	Project Name <b>Bloomer Telephone Co - Tilden-Eagle Point FTTH Phase 2</b>
E-mail Address(es) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="mailto:kent.klima@bloomer.net">kent.klima@bloomer.net</a></li> <li><a href="mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomer.net">travis.mcfarlane@bloomer.net</a></li> </ul>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTH</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other)  <b>Last Mile</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Public-private partnership with the Town of Tilden → FEIN 39-1400862</b></li> <li><b>Public-private partnership with Chippewa County → FEIN 39-6005678</b></li> </ul>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company, the Town of Tilden, and Chippewa County partner to complete the final portion of a two-phase fiber-to-the-home project in the towns of Eagleton, Eagle Point, Tilden, and its surrounding areas. The proposed project will provide symmetrical download and upload speeds of 2.5 Gbps and faster to 135 locations, including residences, businesses, and government buildings.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>2.5 Gbps and faster</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>2.5 Gbps and faster</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>100 Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>100 Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Chippewa County</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden</b>

List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>AT&amp;T, CenturyLink, Charter/Spectrum</b>	
Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). <b>8</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). <b>127</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>0</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>3</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) <b>No</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) <b>Yes -ACP</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	

## FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

### Budget & Income Summary

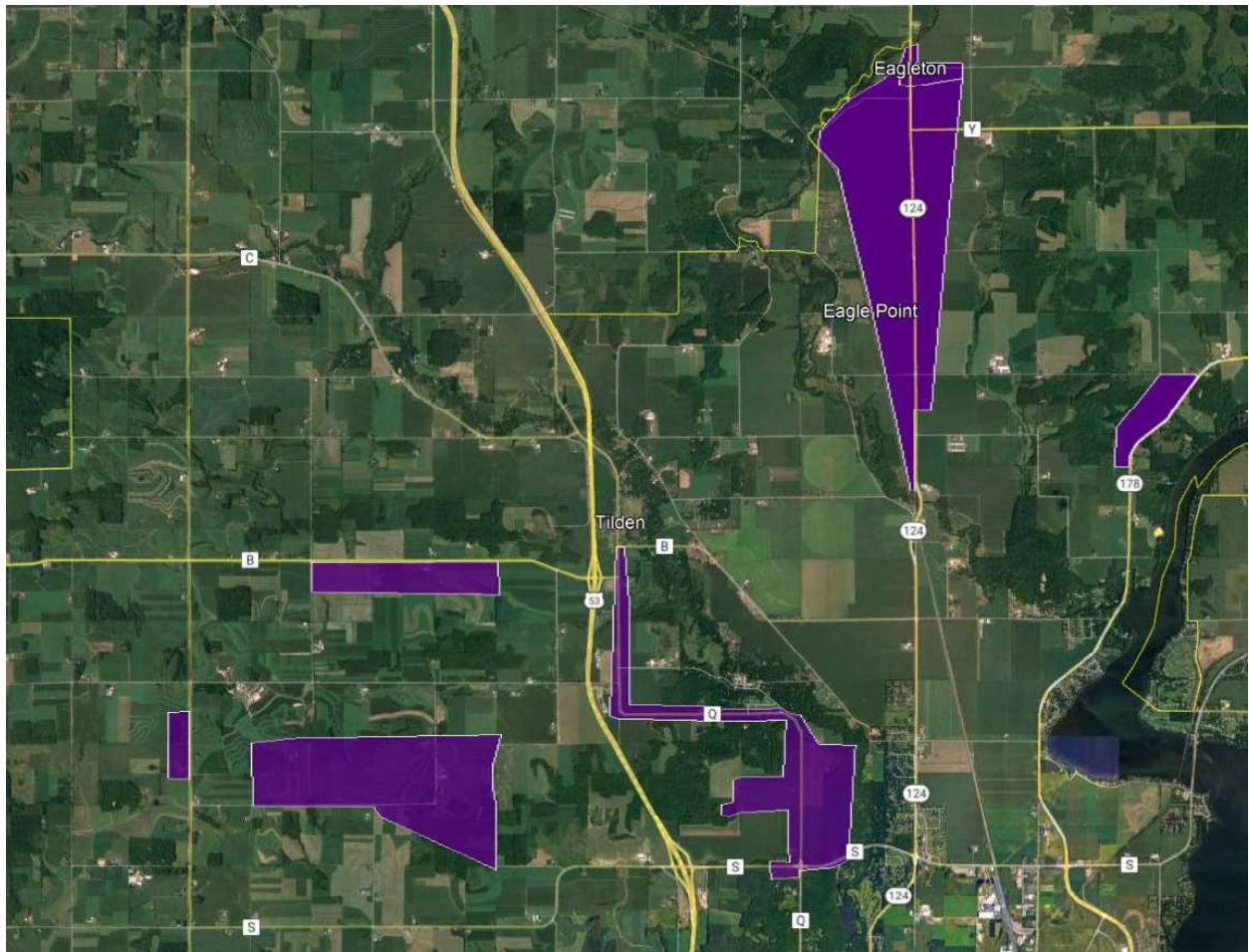


Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary				
Grant Applicant:		Project:		
BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company		Bloomer Telephone Co./Tilden-Eagle Point Phase 2		
Budget				
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$472,276	\$262,316	\$ 734,593
2	Equipment	\$24,409	\$13,558	\$ 37,967
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$5,820	\$3,214	\$ 9,034
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$ 502,505.00	\$ 279,089	\$ 781,594
		35.7% match requested		
Pledged Contributions				
#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company	Applicant	Cash	\$ 183,000.00
2	Town of Tilden	Partner	Cash	\$ 30,000.00
3	Chippewa County	Partner	Cash	\$ 66,089.00
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 279,089.00



## Map(s)



## Narrative Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	7
Mandatory Application Requirements.....	8
Applicant Identification and Contact Information .....	8
Entity Contact Information.....	8
Contact Information for Public-private Partnership Members .....	8
Demonstrating Partnership Eligibility .....	8
Description of the Project.....	9
Description of the Proposed Project Area .....	9
Documentation Demonstrating Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area.....	9
Explanation of how Proposed Project will Increase Broadband Access .....	10
Statement Regarding Last-Mile Aspect of the Proposed Project .....	10
Description of the Broadband Service to be Provided.....	11
Proposed Project Schedule .....	12
Itemized Budget.....	12
Priority Factors Supporting the Application .....	13
<b>Matching Funds.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Public-private Partnerships .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Existing Broadband Service .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Project Impact.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Scalability.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Economic Development .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Effect on Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Other Information Supporting the Application.....	17
History of Broadband Construction Projects.....	17
Statement Regarding Proposed Project and Duplicative Infrastructure .....	17
Financial Ability to Undertake the Proposed Project.....	17
Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Telemedicine .....	18
Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Educational Opportunities from Home.....	18
Other Equitable Factors.....	19
Appendix .....	20
Appendix I. Letters of Support.....	21
Appendix II. Itemized Budget and Construction Costs.....	25
Appendix III. Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area.....	26
Appendix IV. Public-private Partnership Letters .....	35

## **Executive Summary**

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project to serve 135 locations with broadband internet service with 2.5 gigabit speeds in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, in the Towns of Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden. This project represents the second phase to bring FTTH services to residents in Tilden and Eagle Point townships. Public-private partnerships have been developed between Bloomer Telephone Company and both Chippewa County and the Town of Tilden. Together, we are asking the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (the Commission) for \$502,505 (64.29 percent) through the Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant to match the partnership's \$279,089 contribution.

Bloomer Telephone Company carefully mapped the proposed project area based on the Commission's State Broadband Eligibility Grant Map, the Company's previous maps submitted to the Commission for the Broadband Expansion Grant in 2021, and its knowledge of service offerings in the area. Bloomer Telephone Company also contacted each wireline and wireless service provider listed on the Commission's State Broadband Eligibility Grant Map for the addresses in the proposed project area that lie outside areas designated "underserved" and "unserved." The proposed project area is completely underserved, with many residents having little to no wireline or wireless broadband options.

Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing to provide 2.5 Gbps symmetrical FTTH broadband internet services at affordable, competitive rates to the 135 locations in the proposed project area in rural southeastern parts of Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden. Bloomer Telephone Company anticipates 87 total subscribers from the project, or a penetration rate of 64.4 percent. The locations are mainly households, farms, a few businesses, and some residences likely serving as home offices for those who telework or those who run a small business out of their homes. Bloomer Telephone Company's service offerings in the proposed project area will include a low-cost option, and the Company will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Access to FTTH services would improve economic and health outcomes in the proposed project area by increasing access to distance learning, remote work opportunities, and telemedicine. For students in the proposed project area, a better internet connection with strong upload speeds will enable them to be seen and heard clearly in the virtual classroom. For farmers in the proposed project area, FTTH services enable the use of precision agriculture, which benefits both crop and livestock production through increasing sustainability, refining resource allocation, and improving operational efficiency. FTTH access not only benefits current residents, but it attracts prospective residents as well. Increased interest in an area raises property values, furthering opportunities for additional investment in the community.

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will increase competition in an underserved area by providing 2.5 Gbps to locations that have access to fewer than two providers qualifying broadband service (25 Mbps / 3 Mbps). No adverse effect on any current or potential provider in the surrounding area will result from the project, which will bring affordable, high-quality, and high-speed broadband service to an area that desperately needs it.

# **Mandatory Application Requirements**

## **Applicant Identification and Contact Information**

### *Entity Contact Information*

Name of Entity: BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company  
Mailing Address: 1120 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bloomer, WI 54724  
Telephone Number: 715-568-4830  
Contact: Kent Klima, Vice President & General Manager  
Email: [kent.klima@bloomer.net](mailto:kent.klima@bloomer.net)

### *Contact Information for Public-private Partnership Members*

Name of Entity: Chippewa County  
Mailing Address: 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Telephone Number: 715-232-2429  
Contact: Dean Gullickson, Chair, Chippewa County Board of Supervisors  
Email: [dgullickson@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:dgullickson@co.chippewa.wi.us)

Name of Entity: Town of Tilden  
Mailing Address: 10790 100th Ave. Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Telephone Number: 715-288-6453  
Contact: Daniel Adams, Chairman of the Town of Tilden  
Email: [townoftilden@centurytel.net](mailto:townoftilden@centurytel.net)

### *Demonstrating Partnership Eligibility*

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is the subsidiary of an incumbent local exchange carrier that is certified to provide telecommunications services in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 196.5(2)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, with non-exclusive statewide operating authority. Bloomer Telephone Company (PSCW Utility #590) currently serves the Bloomer exchange of Wisconsin in NECA Study Area #330850.

Bloomer Telephone Company currently provides 2,732 broadband internet subscribers with up to 1 Gbps symmetrical service using the Company's state-of-the-art fiber-to-the-home Network. Bloomer Telephone Company also provides telephone service to 2,291 subscribers and video services to 1,154 subscribers using the same network. Fiber networks serve the communities of Bloomer, Colfax, and Elk Mound, with additional service to Eagle Point and Tilden available later this year.

## Description of the Project

### *Description of the Proposed Project Area*

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project to serve 135 locations with broadband internet service with 2.5 gigabit speeds in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, in the Towns of Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden. Bloomer Telephone Company will construct 11.19 miles of fiber across 2.61 square miles in the proposed project area. This project represents the second phase of projects to bring FTTH services to residents and businesses in the towns of Tilden and Eagle Point. Public-private partnerships have been developed between Bloomer Telephone Company and both Chippewa County and the Town of Tilden. Together, we are asking the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (the Commission) for \$502,505 (64.29 percent) through the Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant to match the partnership's \$279,089 contribution.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates the populations of Eagle Point and Tilden are 3,053 and 1,485, respectively, with 36,785 people in Chippewa County. Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District serves the proposed project area, and data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows the district serves 4,844 students. The district has informed Bloomer Telephone Company that students residing in rural parts of the district, like those in the proposed project area, lack access to high-speed internet services and are left at a disadvantage.

To provide these students and their neighbors access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband internet, Bloomer Telephone Company has partnered with the Town of Tilden and Chippewa County. Phase-one of the FTTH Project was awarded to two grant applications during the Commission's FY 2021 Broadband Expansion Grant cycle, one \$2.49 million project for Eagle Point and one \$1.26 million project for Tilden. When complete, the projects will construct a combined 86 miles of fiber, passing 305 locations. Awarding Broadband Expansion Grant funds for the second phase of this project would enable the following outcomes:

- the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District would be able to fully take advantage of their one-laptop-per-student initiative;
- the Towns of Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden would receive much-needed economic investment, resulting in higher home values; and
- the well-being of residents in the proposed project area would improve through access to telemedicine.

### *Documentation Demonstrating Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area*

Bloomer Telephone Company designed its proposed project area using the Commission's State Broadband Eligibility Grant Map and selected several areas primarily designated as underserved. However, through information received from residents, technical knowledge of available services, and research performed to evaluate broadband availability, Bloomer Telephone Company believes that the Commission's map contains inaccurate information regarding the availability of broadband services in the proposed project area. Evidenced in Appendix IV of this application, Bloomer Telephone Company used 61 different addresses designated as served by

the Commission's map and contacted Charter/Spectrum, CenturyLink, AT&T, and T-Mobile regarding the availability of wireline and wireless services using their website and over the phone. Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile / Sprint were contacted regarding the availability of home mobile internet services as well. A list of addresses used, providers contacted, and providers available in this portion of the proposed project area is included in Appendix IV of this application. No address in the proposed project area is served by two or more providers of qualifying broadband services (25 Mbps / 3 Mbps).

#### *Explanation of how Proposed Project will Increase Broadband Access*

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will serve 132 underserved locations and 3 unserved locations with fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) high-speed internet access in an area where no fiber-based broadband is available for end users. FTTH access offers faster, more reliable access to services that are not limited by aging copper facilities. Using initially deployed customer premise equipment and a direct, in-home network connection, broadband services will be available to residential and business customers starting at speeds of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload and reaching (and eventually surpassing) 2.5 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload.

Any improvement to a competitor's existing network would simply use a fiber-to-the-node architecture to feed a legacy copper plant to the customer premise, technology that is not scalable to future demand. FTTH technology, alternatively, is scalable to speeds of 10 Gbps and faster. Advertised available download speeds in the proposed project area from AT&T and CenturyLink range from 0.5 Mbps to 30 Mbps, however, the homes are served with ADSL2. These homes are rural, with long driveways far from the road. Loop length in these areas significantly inhibits customers from receiving advertised speeds.

In certain locations along State Highway Q, Charter / Spectrum uses cable modem DOCSIS 3.1 technology to provide qualifying broadband service. However, at the 61 locations tested that were tested, only one service provider of qualifying broadband service was available. Consequently, these areas are underserved.

#### *Statement Regarding Last-Mile Aspect of the Proposed Project*

The proposed project includes only distribution and last-mile fiber facilities. The project is an extension of Bloomer's existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder, and drop fiber to customer premises. No middle mile infrastructure or costs are included in this grant application. Bloomer Telephone Company currently maintains sufficient middle mile and backhaul facilities, and it has capacity on its existing backbone ring network to deliver high-speed broadband services to all proposed and future last-mile subscribers in the proposed project area.

### *Description of the Broadband Service to be Provided*

Bloomer Telephone Company will provide high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. The proposed network will be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in Bloomer Telephone Company's existing service territory. Bloomer Telephone Company will deploy an XGS-PON 10 Gigabits Symmetrical Passive Optical Network (PON). Bandwidth in an XGS-PON network is comprised of 10 Gbps downstream and 10 Gbps upstream, thus symmetrical bandwidths. The bandwidth is shared by all subscribers connected to the PON via a passive optical splitter. Dynamic bandwidth allocation and statistical multiplexing enable more effective bandwidth usage, allowing users higher effective throughput when needed.

The PON architecture is designed for straightforward upgrade to even higher bandwidth PON architectures, using different wavelengths for multiple 10 Gbps signals or even higher bandwidths in the future, without changing out any of the physical infrastructure other than the electronics (laser transmitters and receivers) at the nodes and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) at the customer premises for those customers who want the especially high bandwidth. Existing PON FTTH subscribers can remain at the deployed system bandwidth or upgrade with no changes to the existing optical fiber PON, other than possibly the insertion of specialty optical isolators at the node that provision for more wavelengths, if needed.

Upon completion of the proposed project, the following service packages will be available:

<b>Residential &amp; Business Service Offerings</b>		
<b>Download Speeds</b>	<b>Upload Speeds</b>	<b>Monthly Price</b>
100 Mbps	100 Mbps	\$49.95
250 Mbps	250 Mbps	\$79.95
500 Mbps	250 Mbps	\$129.95
1 Gbps	250 Mbps	\$199.95

As previously stated, speeds greater than those listed are possible with the network architecture Bloomer Telephone Company will implement in the proposed project area, with pricing and service packages yet to be established.

To facilitate e-learning opportunities, improve access to telemedicine and work-from-home employment, and help the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District take advantage of its 1:1 laptop to student ratio, Bloomer Telephone Company will offer service packages with symmetrical speeds, in addition to a 100 Mbps symmetrical low-cost option that becomes less than \$20 per month when the subscriber is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and receives the program's \$30 a month discount.

Further, when compared to the Federal Communications Commission's 2022 Broadband Reasonable Comparability Benchmark Calculator, the affordability of Bloomer Telephone Company's rates becomes clear. The US Benchmark Rate for 100 Mbps symmetrical is \$96.47 per month, over 93 percent more expensive than Bloomer Telephone Company's monthly rate for the same service. For 250 Mbps symmetrical, the US Benchmark Rate is \$110.53, over 38 percent more expensive than the proposed project's rates.



Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services and video services will be available for subscribers upon request as an optional service.

### *Proposed Project Schedule*

If Bloomer Telephone Company's application is approved by the Commission by the end of August 2022, the following deployment schedule will be used to complete the proposed project:

- September 2022 – April of 2023 → Order and stage equipment
- May – Nov of 2023 → Bury new fiber facilities
- Aug – Nov of 2023 → Install electronics
- Dec of 2023 → Begin services

### **Itemized Budget**

Appendix III and the itemized cost list below summarizes the equipment costs for the proposed network. All construction and installation costs will be managed by Bloomer Telephone Company. The company will use internal employees and trusted third party contractors that the company has successfully used in similar fiber construction projects. The proposed network infrastructure will be owned by Bloomer Telephone Company. This application complies with all budgetary and financial requirements under the FY 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant program. Grant funds requested in this application will only be used for authorized services. Ongoing expenses or monthly bills of telecommunications subscribers will not be subsidized with grant funds. Bloomer Telephone Company affirms that all grant funds requested in this application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved proposed project area.

Budget Detail		
Description / Category:	Detail	Total
*Construction Costs		\$ 734,573
*Buried fiber network of 17miles of 12 to 144 fiber strand cable, including splicing, pedestals, handholes and equipment & engineering costs		
Equipment-detail below		\$ 37,967
*1 Splitter cabinet and splitters	\$ 11,726	
*XGS-PON SFPS	\$ 5,380	
*ONT'S	\$ 20,860	
Labor (Salary, Fringe)		\$ 9,054
Total:		\$ 781,594



## **Priority Factors Supporting the Application**

### **Matching Funds**

The financial contributions of the Town of Tilden, Chippewa County, and Bloomer Telephone Company amount to \$279,089 or 35.7 percent of the \$781,594 project. The Town of Tilden will provide \$30,000, Chippewa County will provide \$66,089, and Bloomer Telephone Company will provide \$183,000 in matching funds. In addition, the Town of Tilden is making an in-kind contribution to the proposed project in the form of waiving all the normal fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required from the Town Board.

### **Public-private Partnerships**

Bloomer Telephone's public-private partnerships demonstrate the level of community support the company has garnered for the project. The partnerships were developed in collaboration with the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Tilden Board, who have both pledged to support the project through providing financial assistance, granting permission on and across property to construct the proposed project, and prioritizing the project in internal planning documents. As previously stated, the Town of Tilden will also provide in-kind donations to waive certain fees and expenses normally required for construction projects. Public-private partnership agreements have been included with this application in Appendix IV. Commitment letters from partners have been included in Appendix I.

### **Existing Broadband Service**

Bloomer Telephone Company designed its proposed project area using the Commission's Broadband Availability Map and selected several areas primarily designated as underserved. However, through information received from residents, technical knowledge of available services, and research performed to evaluate broadband availability, Bloomer Telephone Company believes that the Commission's map contains inaccurate information regarding the availability of broadband services in the proposed project area.

Evidenced in Appendix IV of this application, Bloomer Telephone Company used 61 different addresses designated as served by the Commission's map and contacted Charter / Spectrum, CenturyLink, AT&T, and T-Mobile regarding the availability of wireline and wireless services. Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile / Sprint were contacted regarding the availability of home mobile internet services as well. No more than one provider of qualifying broadband service was found at each location. Advertised speeds for wireline service ranged from 3 Mbps download and 500 Kbps upload to 30 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. Charter/Spectrum also provides qualifying broadband service in select locations. Fixed wireless services from AT&T advertises speeds up to 25 Mbps download, but their terms and conditions and their reports to the Federal Communications Commission and the Wisconsin Public Services Commission reveal that the network is only capable of 10 Mbps download. A spreadsheet of addresses used, providers

contacted, and providers available in this portion of the proposed project area has been included in Appendix IV of this application.

Bloomer Telephone Company's application avoids duplicating existing broadband infrastructure as no FTTH services exist in the proposed project area.

## **Project Impact**

Bloomer Telephone is proposing to provide 2.5 Gbps symmetrical fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband internet services at affordable, competitive rates to the 135 locations in the proposed project area in rural Chippewa County in the Towns of Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Tilden, Wisconsin. Bloomer Telephone Company anticipates 87 total subscribers from the project, or a penetration rate of 64.4 percent.

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project areas are isolated and rural and include the following areas: the eastern portion of State Highway F between 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, extending across 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 105<sup>th</sup> Street; the southern portion of State Highway B between 90<sup>th</sup> Street and 110<sup>th</sup> Street; and a portion of the intersection of State Highway S and State Highway Q. The terrain features deciduous and mixed forests, herbaceous and woody wetlands, and developed residential areas. Data from the United States Department of Agriculture's CroplandCROS map indicates many farms exist in the proposed project area. These farms grow alfalfa, beans, corn, livestock, oats, rye, and soybeans.

To serve the proposed project area, Bloomer Telephone Company will provide high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. Service packages will include: 100 Mbps symmetrical for \$49.95 per month, 250 Mbps symmetrical for \$79.95 per month, 500 Mbps by 250 Mbps for \$129.95 per month, 1 Gbps by 250 Mbps for \$199.95 per month, and 2.5 Gbps symmetrical for to-be-determined price. Speeds greater than those listed are possible with the network architecture Bloomer Telephone Company will implement in the proposed project area. Pricing for these service packages have yet to be established.

For low-income individuals and families, Bloomer Telephone Company will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which will provide up to \$30 per month in discounts for broadband internet services. With that discount, Bloomer Telephone Company's low-cost 100 Mbps symmetrical service offering becomes \$19.95 per month. ACP discounts will be offered to every subscriber in the proposed project area, and instructions on how to apply will be added to Bloomer Telephone Company's website.

## Scalability

Bloomer Telephone's proposed project will offer the same FTTH services it offers in its current service area while increasing the number of users the Company serves by 2.35 percent. The proposed project will add no new nodes to the Company's network, serving 2.61 square miles. As this is the second phase of the project, existing fiber facilities will be used in providing service to the proposed project area.

As previously stated, the proposed project will deploy an XGS-PON 10 Gigabits Symmetrical Passive Optical Network (PON). Bandwidth in an XGS-PON network is comprised of 10 Gbps downstream and 10 Gbps upstream, thus symmetrical bandwidths. The bandwidth is shared by all subscribers connected to the PON via a passive optical splitter. Dynamic bandwidth allocation and statistical multiplexing enable more effective bandwidth usage, allowing users higher effective throughput when needed.

The PON architecture is designed for straightforward upgrade to even higher bandwidth PON architectures, using different wavelengths for multiple 10 Gbps signals or even higher bandwidths in the future, without changing out any of the physical infrastructure other than the electronics (laser transmitters and receivers) at the nodes and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) at the customer premises for those customers who want the especially high bandwidth. Existing PON FTTH subscribers can remain at the deployed system bandwidth or upgrade with no changes to the existing optical fiber PON, other than possibly the insertion of specialty optical isolators at the node that provision for more wavelengths, if needed.

The proposed project is intended to grow to ultimately accommodate all future residential and business in the proposed project area. The project will initially deploy ultrafast broadband services over fiber facilities suitable for broadband at practically unlimited speeds, well in excess of the state's threshold of 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps. Expansion and improvement of services over time will include:

- Installing battery backup power, upon request, when voice services are provided and complying with all future state and federal requirements regarding battery replacement;
- Adhering to mandated increases in the speed and latency requirements of broadband services; and
- Participating in the Federal Communications Commissions' Affordable Connectivity Program to provide low-income customers with a discount on broadband services.

Bloomer Telephone Company is committed to bringing FTTH services to rural Wisconsin. Multi-phase projects to Bloomer and Colfax have been completed, and expansion efforts in other areas are still underway. Bloomer Telephone Company will continue to expand its network with the Commission's support.

## Economic Development

A fiber-to-the-home connection creates significant potential for economic development, particularly in rural, sparsely populated areas. Like a telephone connection 70 years ago, access to the latest communication technology provides opportunity for commerce, education, and access to vital services like healthcare. Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will provide 135 locations with access to FTTH services, improving economic, educational, and health outcomes in the proposed project area. By increasing access to distance learning, remote work opportunities, and telemedicine, the proposed project will have a strong, positive effect on the local economy. As identified in the letters of support provided in Appendix II of this application, high-speed internet is desperately needed in the proposed project area, particularly to support video conferencing technology.

FTTH's high speeds and reliable connection will enable children and adults alike to easily take advantage of distance learning opportunities, which is vital to economic development. Investing in educational opportunities ensures prosperity for future generations through a skilled, diversified workforce. High upload speeds made possible with a FTTH connection will enable individuals in the proposed project area to attend and participate in virtual classes offered at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. For students in the proposed project area that attend school at the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, a reliable connection will enable full use of the laptops and i-Pads the students have been provided. FTTH service will allow students to complete their homework without fear of an interrupted or slowed network connection.

Many individuals in the proposed project area work in the information, finance, and health insurance industries and could perform their job functions from home. With this type of client-focused work, video conferencing is a frequent part of conducting business. Like with distance learning, high upload speeds are necessary to adequately participate in a video conference meeting. Current levels of service available in the proposed project area leave residents with slow upload speeds little choice in internet service provider, with many using mobile hotspot technology to access the internet via their cellular device. This type of service quickly becomes prohibitively expensive. With a FTTH connection, telecommuting becomes more feasible, which in turn makes homes in the proposed project area more valuable.

Affordable, high-speed internet access not only benefits current residents, but it attracts potential residents as well. With increased interest in an area comes higher real estate values, larger property taxes, and more opportunities for further community investment. Researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater found that access to gigabit internet services like the proposed project increase the value of a home by thousands of dollars, equivalent to the addition of a fireplace or approximately half the value of adding a bathroom. Studies from the University of Colorado and Carnegie Mellon University have confirmed these findings. (The Wall Street Journal, *How Fast Internet Affects Home Prices*, Ryan Knutson (June 2015). <https://web.archive.org/web/20201021095911/https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-fast-internet-affects-home-pricesfast-internet-access-can-boost-a-homes-value-1435694077?tesla=y>).

## **Effect on Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas**

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will increase competition in an underserved area by providing 2.5 Gbps to areas that have access to only one provider of digital subscriber line (DSL) service. No adverse effect on any current or potential provider in the surrounding area will result from the project, which will bring affordable, high-quality, and high-speed broadband service to an area that desperately needs it.

## **Other Information Supporting the Application**

### **History of Broadband Construction Projects**

Bloomer Telephone Company has served the Bloomer area since 1901 and has provided high-speed internet services since 1996. In 2006, Bloomer Telephone Company began a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project in its incumbent-local-exchange (ILEC) area. By 2017, 100 percent of customers in the ILEC area were using this FTTH service. Bloomer Telephone Company now serves 2,732 customers with FTTH and continues to extend their fiber network to rural customers in the surrounding communities.

Between 2018 and 2022, Bloomer Telephone Company has applied and secured grant funding for six separate Broadband Expansion Grants through the Commission to provide FTTH services. They include a \$2.49 million project to serve 205 locations in the Town of Eagle Point, a \$1.26 million project to serve 100 locations in the Town of Tilden, a \$1.25 million to serve 227 locations in the Town of Colfax (phase one), a \$1.90 million project to serve 475 locations in the Town of Colfax (phase two), a \$718K project to serve 113 locations in Bloomer School District (phase one), and a \$1.33 million project to serve 255 locations in Bloomer School District (phase two). These projects have had a take rate of approximately 75 percent.

### **Statement Regarding Proposed Project and Duplicative Infrastructure**

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure. Residents in the proposed project areas uniformly say they have no access to fast broadband from their incumbent provider. It is Bloomer Telephone Company's belief that these locations are at the edge of the incumbent provider's exchange and that advertised speeds do not match possible speeds.

### **Financial Ability to Undertake the Proposed Project**

Bloomer Telephone Company has demonstrated its financial preparedness and operational skills through the completion of four of the Commission's Broadband Expansion Grant awards, with two more currently underway. The company has offered state-of-the-art telecommunications

services since operations began in 1901. Bloomer Telephone Company's success in completing and surpassing adoption targets on its Broadband Expansion Grant awards provides additional proof of the Company's strong financial and operational capabilities. All revenues have been reported to the Commission under the Annual Questionnaire for Telecommunications Utilities that describes regulated and non-regulated revenues.

## **Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Telemedicine**

Access to telemedicine would greatly improve public health outcomes in the proposed project area. Residents in these areas need access to high speeds for video conferencing to see the doctor as easily as someone who lives in the city. For elderly residents especially, transportation over such distances can be quite difficult. At-home virtual visits lessen the strain on patients and those who care for them.

More virtual healthcare appointments means less people visiting hospitals and healthcare facilities in person, reducing the spread of disease and easing the strain on the facility's resources. Telemedicine services in Eau Claire from Privea, Mayo Clinic, Marshfield Clinic, and St. Joseph / Sacred Heart will be readily available over the proposed network. This is an important feature of high-speed internet for many subscribers in the communities Bloomer Telephone Company serves.

## **Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Educational Opportunities from Home**

Access to high speeds and a reliable connection will enable children and adults alike to easily take advantage of distance learning opportunities in the proposed project area. Approximately 21.9 percent of the population in Chippewa County is between the ages of 5 and 18, indicating the tremendous need for increased access to distance education. However, children in rural communities like the proposed project area lack access to adequate internet services and are consequently being left behind.

Video conferencing has become vital to administering education across distances and under difficult circumstances, such as the COVID 19 pandemic. In the wake of having to operate virtually, some school districts are opting to replace snow days with virtual school days. To ensure these students can adequately participate in their classroom video conferences and complete their homework at home no matter the circumstances, a strong internet connection and high speeds are needed.

As evidenced by the letter of support from Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation that has been included in Appendix I of this application, high upload speeds made possible will enable students to attend and participate in virtual classes, including those offered at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in nearby Menomonie or at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. For students in the proposed project area that attend a school in Chippewa Falls Area

Unified School District, a reliable connection will enable full use of the devices the students have been provided to achieve the district's 1:1 laptop to student ratio. The services Bloomer Telephone Company will provide will allow students to complete their homework without fear of an interrupted or slowed network connection.

## **Other Equitable Factors**

Bloomer Telephone Company has provided services for over 100 years. During that time, it has developed relationships with equipment providers, local construction crews, consultants, and providers of capital. To demonstrate the relationships Bloomer Telephone Company has developed in the community, letters of support for the proposed project have been collected and included in full in Appendix I. These letters detail the immense need for high-speed internet in the proposed project area, and describe potential benefits to educational attainment, economic development, and public health in the community. Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will allow children to learn at home in the same way as their urban counterparts, increase home values, make telemedicine a reality for many, and increase the area's attractiveness to new residents and businesses.

Bloomer Telephone Company is committed to supporting broadband adoption and does so through door-to-door campaigns to sign residents up for affordable high-speed internet. For subscribers, the Company provides top-notch technical support from local experts and maintains a resource library detailing troubleshooting options for connecting to and using the internet. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bloomer Telephone Company also provided free hotspots to the community and partnered with the Bloomer School District to bring its students fast, affordable internet to support distance learning efforts.

Bloomer Telephone Company and its partners on the proposed project are deeply involved with bringing broadband to rural Wisconsin. With the Commission's support, this project can enact real change for the people of Tilden, Eagleton, Eagle Point, and Chippewa County.

## **Appendix**

- Appendix I – Letters of Support
- Appendix II – Itemized Cost List
- Appendix III – Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area
- Appendix IV – Public-private Partnership Letters



## Appendix I. Letters of Support



**ROB SUMMERFIELD**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 67<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

March 9, 2022

Chairperson Rebecca Valcq  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Chairperson Valcq,

I strongly support Bloomer Telephone Company's broadband expansion grant application to help fund their project in the Townships of Tilden and Eagle Point in Chippewa County in the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

As the representative of the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I know how beneficial reliable broadband connection can be for my constituents. Broadband access is only becoming more important as the need to work, learn, and access healthcare remotely grows. The broadband access this grant will provide will be a significant investment in the long-term quality of life and prosperity of the area.

The township and county know how beneficial this grant can be, which is why the Township of Tilden and Chippewa County have already pledged funds towards the project. This project is proactive and will ensure that the residents of Tilden and Eagle Point will not be left out of the emerging opportunities that broadband connection brings.

My constituents and I thank you for your fair and full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rob Summerfield".

Rep. Rob Summerfield  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53703

# TOWN OF TILDEN

Town Chairman Daniel Adams  
12193 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
[townoftilden@centurytel.net](mailto:townoftilden@centurytel.net) 715-723-5674



March 10, 2022

Chairperson Rebecca Valcq  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Chairperson Valcq,

The Town of Tilden supports Bloomer Telephone Company's broadband expansion grant application to fund reliable high-speed internet access to more town residents. Some areas that the Bloomer Telephone Company is expanding into are already served by internet providers but what became apparent during the pandemic is that the service provided was inadequate or non-existent. Town of Tilden received many phone calls about internet providers not providing faster connections, refusing to connect homes or increase bandwidth to meet the needs of those working from home or students who were required to participate in online classrooms. In some cases students had to go to other locations to complete their work or wait until the parent(s) had their work done.

Town of Tilden formed a partnership with the Bloomer Telephone Company to start its expansion into the township, committing \$125,000.00 of Tilden's ARPA grant. The Town of Tilden continues to support the Bloomer Telephone Company's current grant application with an additional \$30,000.00 if they receive the grant. This investment is to be used to provide reliable internet service to town residents in areas currently served by other providers who seem uninterested in providing access or supporting reliable service to Tilden residents.

This grant will offer more Tilden residents the opportunity to access reliable high-speed internet. It will give students and those working from home the ability to use the internet at the same time, in the same household.

With Respect,

Daniel Adams – Town of Tilden Chairperson

Daniel Reischel – Town of Tilden Supervisor 1

Frederick Bohl – Town of Tilden Supervisor 2

## County Board

Minutes  
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

March 8, 2022  
6:00 PM

County Board - Special Meeting - Feb 24, 2022 6:00 PM

2. AZO: 02 - 22 : Rezone Petition: 2022-0001 - Eagle Point
3. 6865 : County Administrator Appointment - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

### 7. REPORTS

#### A. County Administrator Review and Update

#### B. Department Reports

1. 2021 Annual Jail Inspection - Curt Dutton  
Sheriff Kowalczyk and Jail Captain Curt Dutton presented information on the annual jail inspection. This is the 4th year in a row that the Chippewa County Jail received zero violations.
2. Recognition of County Board Supervisors 2020 - 2022 - Jaclyn Sadler  
County Clerk, Jaclyn Sadler, presented the County Board Supervisors with a certificate of service and thanked the supervisors for their service the last two years.

#### C. General Reports

### 8. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Res. 06 - 22 : Resolution to Provide ARPA Broadband Funds for Bloomer Telephone PSC Application - Randy Scholz  
County Administrator Scholz clarified the fiscal statement for the board. The fiscal statement does NOT show/include \$650,000 the project is receiving from the Town of Seymour and Eau Claire County. The total cost of the project does include the amount.

Kent and Travis from Bloomer Telephone answered questions from the Board

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [10 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Mickelson, District 8
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ken Schmitt, District 3
<b>AYES:</b>	Gullickson, Schmitt, McMenamin, Hauser, Mickelson, Shipman, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill
<b>NAYS:</b>	Sikorski, Steele, Ericksen, Kervina
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Hull

2. Res. 07 - 22 : Resolution to Provide ARPA Broadband Funds for Ntera PSC Application - Randy Scholz  
County Administrator Scholz spoke on the resolution.



Commissioner Ellen Nowak  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
North Tower - 6th Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

March 8, 2022

RE: Support For Towns of Colfax/Elk Mound Grant

Dear Ms. Nowak,

On behalf of the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, I am writing in support of Bloomer Telephone Company's grant applications to expand broadband within the Towns of Colfax, Tilden, Eagle Point, Lafayette, Hallie, and Seymour. These projects will add approximately 225 miles of broadband fiber to underserved areas of Chippewa County.

As you know, there is a positive relationship between broadband expansion and economic growth, especially in areas with lower population densities. The residents of rural Chippewa County work for varying areas of business, including agriculture, information, finance, and health insurance companies, and would benefit greatly from this broadband access development.

In addition to the workforce, students in public schools will also greatly benefit from having access to fast and reliable broadband connections. It is crucial for a community to invest in their future workforce, which comprises of public and private schools at all levels. Broadband Internet access allows students to conduct research outside their library, take part in online learning programs across the country, and expand their learning beyond the classroom.

Additionally, many modern businesses and industries rely on broadband in order to successfully operate. The absence of strong broadband connection encourages talent that is being produced from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and UW-Stout to find work and start businesses elsewhere. The expansion of broadband to rural areas will ensure that Wisconsin does not fall behind in economic and technology development, and that the area stays just as successful as an urban or suburban area.

I urge that the Public Service Commission (PSC) approve the Broadband Expansion Grant applications submitted by Bloomer Telephone Company, and look forward to answering your questions about our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Charlic Walker  
President/CEO  
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation

## Appendix II. Itemized Budget and Construction Costs

Budget Detail		
Description / Category:	Detail	Total
*Construction Costs		\$ 734,573
*Buried fiber network of 17miles of 12 to 144 fiber strand cable, including splicing, pedestals, handholes and equipment & engineering costs		
Equipment-detail below		\$ 37,967
*1 Splitter cabinet and splitters	\$ 11,726	
*XGS-PON SFPS	\$ 5,380	
*ONT'S	\$ 20,860	
Labor (Salary, Fringe)		\$ 9,054
Total:		\$ 781,594

### Appendix III. Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area

Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	ISPs Listed on PSC Broadband Map	ISPs Providing Service	Qualified as "Underserved"
9875 90th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
9783 90th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
9345 100th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
9673 100th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
9102 105th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
10512 95th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes

10500 95th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
8600 105th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
8504 105th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
8618 105th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
8756 105th Street	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLinkAT&T Fixed WirelessT-Mobile Fixed WirelessAT&T MobileT-Mobile/Sprint MobileVerizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
12801 County Highway S	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Home Internet	Yes
8610 County Highway Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes

8615 County Highway Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
9114 County Highway Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
12507 90th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
12497 90th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
12210 90th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	AT&T Fixed Wireless	Yes
16291 125th Avenue	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
12310 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon Wireless	None	Yes



12080 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
12050 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
11990 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
11810 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
11770 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
11766 WI-178 Trunk	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	None	Yes
14802 WI-124	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14227 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14231 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes

14201 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14135 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14127 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLinkT-Mobile Fixed WirelessAT&T MobileT-Mobile/Sprint MobileVerizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14115 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14094 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14091 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14069 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14031 150th Avenue	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14899 WI-124	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes

15013 WI-124	Bloomer	WI	54724	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
14982 WI-124	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	CenturyLink	Yes
9505 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9609 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9678 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9708 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9716 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54729	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9728 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes

				T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless		
9734 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9742 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9756 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9748 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9774 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9812 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes

9880 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum CenturyLink AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9767 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9785 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9839 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9847 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9857 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9875 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes

9910 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes
9924 County Hwy Q	Chippewa Falls	WI	54730	Charter/Spectrum AT&T Fixed Wireless T-Mobile Fixed Wireless AT&T Mobile T-Mobile/Sprint Mobile Verizon Wireless	Charter/ Spectrum	Yes

## Appendix IV. Public-private Partnership Letters



### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

By and between the County of Chippewa, Wisconsin, and Bloomer Telephone Company

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made this 10th day of March, 2022 by and among the Participating Parties (defined below) located in the State of Wisconsin (the "State") which, through their duly authorized representatives, have signed this agreement.

**WHEREAS**, the County of Chippewa, a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin, seeks to help and provide resources and the support necessary for economic development for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, Bloomer Telephone Company, a Wisconsin corporation doing business in the County, proposes to expand broadband capability to reach un-served and underserved residences, businesses and farms in the County of Chippewa where such service is currently unavailable or is prohibitively expensive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is currently expected that the proposed broadband expansion would be constructed in areas within the County of Chippewa, State of Wisconsin and enhanced broadband access and availability will be utilized to position the County of Chippewa for desirable economic growth by addressing existing service disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, to further support its application for the State broadband funding grant, Docket Number 5-BF-2022, the Bloomer Telephone Company has requested that the County of Chippewa enter into an agreement, referred to as a Public-Private Partnership Agreement, to assist in the Project by:

- **Providing Financial assistance to the Project** in the form Federal and State provided funding through the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant program;
- **Granting permission on and across County property upon request and when deemed by the County as appropriate** to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
- **Recognizing that the Project is a priority** and is consistent with any internal planning documents adopted by the County of Chippewa.

1120 15th Avenue  
Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724

715-568-4830  
Bloomer.net | 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and among the Parties as follows:

1. **Records.** The County of Chippewa will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administering and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available upon request.
2. **Reporting.** The Bloomer Telephone Company shall meet with the County Board on a semi-annual basis for the purposes of presenting an oral and written report on the status of the Project. The date, time and place of such meeting shall be determined cooperatively among the parties. No fewer than seven (7) days prior to such meeting, the Bloomer Telephone Company shall provide the written report to the County regarding siting and construction progress with respect to the Project.
3. **Effective Date.** This agreement shall become effective upon its adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated as provided herein.
4. **New Members.** After the effective date of this Agreement, additional municipalities may join in this Agreement.
5. **Termination.** This Agreement shall be deemed terminated by any party upon thirty (30) days written notice requesting termination of this Agreement in whole or in part.
6. **Severability.** The terms of this Agreement are severable and any determination by any court or agency having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Agreement that results in the invalidity of any part shall not affect the remainder of the Agreement.
7. **Amendments.** The terms of this Agreement shall not be amended without the written authorization of the governing bodies of all the Participating Parties.
8. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
9. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**COUNTY OF Chippewa, State of WI**

A Participating Party

By: Dean Gullickson

Dean Gullickson – COUNTY of Chippewa Chairperson

Date: March 10, 2022

**BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY**

A Participating Party

By: Kent Klima

Kent Klima – VP & GM

Date: March 10, 2022

1120 15th Avenue  
Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724

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### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

By and between the Town of Tilden, Wisconsin, and Bloomer Telephone Company

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022 by and among the Participating Parties (defined below) located in the State of Wisconsin (the "State") which, through their duly authorized representatives, have signed this agreement.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Tilden, a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin, seeks to help and provide resources and the support necessary for economic development for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, Bloomer Telephone Company, a Wisconsin corporation doing business in the Township, proposes to expand broadband capability to reach un-served and underserved residences, businesses and farms in the Town of Tilden where such service is currently unavailable or is prohibitively expensive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is currently expected that the proposed broadband expansion would be constructed in areas within Tilden Township, Chippewa County, Wisconsin and enhanced broadband access and availability will be utilized to position the Town of Tilden for desirable economic growth through addressing existing service disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, to further support its application for the State broadband funding grant, Docket Number 5-BF-2022, the Bloomer Telephone Company has requested that the Town of Tilden enter into an agreement, referred to as a Public-Private Partnership Agreement, to assist in the Project by:

- **Providing Financial and in-kind assistance to the Project**, in the form Federal, State, County and Township provided funding through the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant program, waiving all of the normal fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required from the Town Board;
- **Grant permission on and across Township property**, to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
- **Recognizing that the Project is a priority**, and is consistent with any internal planning documents adopted by the Tilden Town Board.

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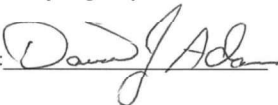


NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and among the Parties as follows:

1. **Records.** The Town of Tilden will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administering and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available upon request.
2. **Reporting.** The Bloomer Telephone Company shall meet with the Tilden Town Board on a semi-annual basis for the purposes of presenting an oral report on the status of the Project. The date, time and place of such meeting shall be determined cooperatively among the parties. No fewer than seven (7) days prior to such meeting, the Bloomer Telephone Company shall provide a report regarding siting and construction progress with respect to the Project.
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**TOWN OF Tilden , COUNTY OF Chippewa, WI**

A Participating Party

By: 

Dan Adams – TOWN OF Tilden Chairperson

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY**

A Participating Party

By: 

Kent Klima – VP & GM

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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